

Piper Farm  
WA-II-0335

Antietam National Battlefield *See also - WA - II - 0477*  
Sharpsburg, Washington County, MD  
Catocin Center for Regional Studies,  
Frederick Community College  
July 2009

### Addendum

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Daniel Piper purchased this farm in 1846 and operated it with his grown son Henry, who inherited it when his father died in 1854. The Piper family was typical of the region in being both avowed Unionists and slaveholders. In 1850, each man owned a family of slaves: Daniel, five, several of them children; Henry, four, ages six months to 24 years. To accommodate the two slave families, around that time the stone slave quarters were divided into two sections, each with one room, an outside door, and an upper loft. (A second room on the south end of the building was constructed at an unknown date. It has a door on the east elevation and a window on the west elevation, and was used for either additional living space or work space. Around 1912, log wall additions raised the upper story of the building to accommodate its use for housing part of a tenant farmer's family.)

By 1860, there were six slaves on the farm, five of them children, and one sixteen-year-old free black farm hand named John J. One of these slaves, Jeremiah (Jerry) Cornelius Summers, was born on the farm in 1849. Thirteen years old in September 1862, he fled with the Piper family when they abandoned their home as the Confederate army began to set up its line of defense across the farm's fields and orchard in preparation for the Battle of Antietam. During the mid-day phase of the fight on September 17, General Longstreet used the farmhouse as his headquarters.

In April 1864, Summers was at the center of a controversy in the Sharpsburg community. A company of the 19<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Troops headquartered at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Sharpsburg was accused of seizing "diverse colored men, free and slave," including Jeremiah Summers, from the surrounding area to join their ranks. Henry Piper protested that Summers was still a minor and therefore not subject to military service. He retrieved the boy from the church headquarters and returned with him to the farm. The company commander then sent a guard of "eight or more armed colored" troops to arrest Piper. He was released in return for his consent for Summers to rejoin the company. "Almost immediately thereafter" the troops left town. Piper had to go to Frederick to speak with the Provost Marshal before he could get Summers back. The citizens of Sharpsburg and the surrounding area were "aggrieved and outraged" by what they perceived as unauthorized impressment of Summers and by the disrespectful and violent manhandling of Piper during his arrest. At a hastily organized meeting they drafted a petition to Major General Lew Wallace asking for an investigation of the incident.

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### **Addendum**

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After his emancipation in November 1864, Jerry continued to work and live on the Piper farm, employed by Henry's son Samuel. He testified in support of Piper's claim against the government for compensation for war damage to the farm. Henry Piper had retired to an elegant stone house in nearby Sharpsburg, where he employed Jerry's son, Emory Summers.

In 1924, Fred W. Cross, a visitor to the Antietam Battlefield, took several photographs of Jerry Summers at his home located on Bloody Lane on the northern edge of the Piper farm. Cross described Summers as "the last of the slaves of Sharpsburg," noting, "At Henry Piper's death Jerry was given the use for life of a small cottage and garden plot facing the northerly stretch of the 'Bloody Lane.'"

Jeremiah Cornelius Summers died the following year in 1925 at the age of 76. He was buried in the cemetery of Tolson's Chapel in Sharpsburg.

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### **Addendum**

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Wallace, Edith B., "Reclaiming Forgotten History: Preserving Rural African-American Resources in Washington County, Maryland" (master's thesis, Goucher College, 2003), 16, 43, 61, 87, 90, 121, 137.



Civil War and the African American Experience

Piper Farm - Antietam Battlefield Washington Co, MD

Paula Reed

6/09

MDSHP

SE view, house, Quarter,

1 / 3



WA-II-335

R per farm, Antietam Battlefield, Washington Co MD

Paula Reed

6/09

MDSHPO

Quarter, Kitchen, SW view

2/3





WA-II-335

Ripon Farm Antietam Battlefield, Washington Co. MD

Paula Reed

6/09

MDSHPD

NW view, barn, wagon shed/corn crib, workshop

3/3

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-335  
District 1  
Map 76  
Parcel 35  
MAGI # 2208971535

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Piper Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Antietam Battlefield

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF Sharpsburg

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☒ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☒ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

U.S.A. National Park Service

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Dept. of the Interior

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

D. C.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 409

Folio #: 630

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

WA-II-335

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED < 50%

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Now part of the Antietam National Battlefield site, the Piper Farm is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings consist of a two story, three bay log and brick house, its log walls sheathed with German siding, a stone spring house and a large stone and frame bank barn located some distance from the house and other buildings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This complex is primarily significant for its association with the Civil War Battle of Antietam which occurred on September 17, 1862. The complex also is important as representing the vernacular architecture of Western Maryland. The interior and exterior woodwork of the house suggests that it was built during the middle third of the 19th century.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

WA-II-335

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 192.65 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

71°45'

1590 000 FEET (MD)

265°00'00" E

766

767

WA-II-303

WA-II-282

WA-II-357

WA-II-357

WA-II-357

WA-II-281

4175 000' N

WA-II-247

WA-II-279

WA-II-347

WA-II-345

WA-II-251

WA-II-255

CREEK

BALTIMORE

WA-II-122

Hicks Hill Bridge

WA-II-252

WA-II-348

ANTIETAM

Approx

Fairview Cem.

WA-II-130

4374

WA-II-243

600 000 FEET (MD)

WA-II-335

4373

WA-II-350

WA-II-351

WA-II-349

WA-II-355

4372

Keedysville grade

WA-II-335

WA-II-331

WA-II-324

Porterstown Bridge

WA-II-106

WA-II-340

Porterstown

WA-II-323

WA-II-265

ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY

WA-II-326

Sharpsburg

(BM 413)

WA-II-353

WA-II-334

WA-II-354

Hawkins Monument

WA-II-354

Burnside Bridge

WA-II-132

Gaging Sta.

WA-II-333

WA-II-339

WA-II-114

WA-II-369

WA-II-369

WA-II-369

Flickerav

27°30'

4370

MAINTAINED BY SHEPHERD



WA-II-335

N.E. View.

March, 1976

Piper Farm

Antietam Battlefield  
Sharpsburg Vicinity

BRULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY